

SENATE BILL 543

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9;
Title 37 and Title 71, relative to funding child care
services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) There is created within the state general fund a special account to be known as the child care improvement fund (the fund).

(b) The department of human services shall administer the fund, and moneys in the fund must be expended and obligated only in accordance with this section and in accordance with appropriations made by the general assembly.

(c) The department shall allocate and disperse grants each fiscal year from the fund to nonprofit organizations to be expended only for establishing a new child care agency in this state or making improvements to, or assisting with staffing, recruitment, or salary gaps, at an existing child care agency in this state.

(d) Unless otherwise specified in this section, moneys deposited in the fund must be used only to implement and administer the purposes set forth in this section. In addition to appropriations made to the fund, the department may accept other funds, public or private, by way of gift or grant to the fund. A gift or grant must be deposited into the fund to be expended in accordance with this section.

(e) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund for the benefit of the fund in accordance with § 9-4-603. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund must be credited to and remain part of the fund.

(f) Any unencumbered moneys and any unexpended balance of the fund remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this section. No part of the fund shall be diverted to the general fund or any other public fund.

(g) All expenditures from the fund are subject to review in the form of an annual report submitted by the department to the commissioner of finance and administration.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.